

in international prices, there was a surge in imports of SMP. In order to prevent cheap imports of milk powder from adversely affecting domestic producers, Government of India, after negotiations with its trading partners raised the bound rate of duty on Skimmed Milk Powder and Whole Milk Powder from 0% to 60% with an annual global Tariff Rate Quota of 10,000 metric tonnes at concessional duty rate of 15% on both lines taken together.

Cut in Support Prices of Wheat and Rice

120. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to cut the support prices of wheat and rice, in view of excess crops;
- (b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter;
- (c) whether the State Government's have protested against the proposal; and
- (d) if so, in what precise terms, and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Import of Milk

† 121. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start the import of milk from April, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the import of milk would have an adverse impact on the milk trade of the country?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.